

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TAGS: EAGR, TGEN, UR, UR

SUBJ: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE:

FORECASTING AND DATA COLLECTION TEAM

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER,
US-USSR SECRETARIAT, EUROPEAN AREA OFFICER

1. FORECASTING TEAM MET WITH RUNOV AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 13.
IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, TEAM EXPRESSED ITS UNANIMOUS
DISSATISFACTION WITH TRIP, EMPHASIZING LACK OF ADVANCE NOTICE
OF PROGRAM DETAILS AND REPEATED CHANGES IN PROGRAM, WITHHOLDING
OF STATISTICAL FORMS AND PUBLICATIONS, EXCESSIVE CENSORING OF
FIELD DISCUSSIONS BY ACCOMPANYING MOSCOW OFFICIALS, DIFFICULTY
IN GAINING ACCESS TO ACTUAL STATISTICAL AND FARM OPERATIONS,
AND OTHER OBSTACLES APPARENTLY SET UP TO THWART MISSION.

2. RUNOV RESPONDED THAT US DELEGATIONS ARE SELDOM DISSATISFIED
WITH VISITS. SORRY THIS TEAM IS EXCEPTION, BUT FEELS THAT TEAM
REACTION TO TRIP TOGETHER WITH WASHINGTON RECALL OF SPRING
WHEAT TEAM MAY BE US EFFORT TO DISCREDIT AGREEMENT. RUNOV
INDICATED WHEAT TEAM MEMBERS SATISFIED WITH PROGRAM AS PRESENTED
IN MOSCOW, BUT NEVERTHELESS RECALLED BY WASHINGTON. IF US DOES
NOT WANT IMPROVED RELATIONS, PERHAPS SHOULD STOP AND/OR APPRAISE
AGREEMENT. PRESENT US ATTITUDE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THESE TWO

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TEAMS DOES NOT SERVE AGREEMENT.

3. RUNOV NOTED THAT FORECASTING DELEGATION WAS UNUSUAL MISSION AND BROKE NEW GROUND. USSR MUST KEEP STATE SECRETS WHILE US SYSTEM IS OPEN. THEREFORE SYSTEMS ARE INCOMPATIBLE. BOTH SIDES WOULD BE SURPRISED IF DELEGATION COMPLETELY SATISFIED. OUR JOB OBVIOUSLY TO LEARN ALL POSSIBLE. MRS. TRESORUKOVA ADDED THAT IT WAS EXPLAINED IN WASHINGTON AT MAY MEETING THAT EXTENSIVE TRAVEL IN USSR TO STUDY STATISTICS NOT NECESSARY; USSR STATISTICAL SYSTEM IS UNIFORM AND CENTRALIZED. SOVIET SIDE TRIED TO BE HOSPITABLE, BUT LAW PREVENTS GIVING SOME INFORMATION.

4. RUNOV RAISED QUESTION OF BALANCE IN AGREEMENT WITH MORE US THAN USSR DELEGATIONS. US SIDE NOTED THAT ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP WAS IN AGREEMENT TO GET BALANCE FROM US; AND BECAUSE OF PRESENT WORLD GRAIN SITUATION AND INTERRELATIONSHIP OF WORLD GRAIN ECONOMY, THERE WERE GOOD REASONS FOR EXCHANGING ECONOMIC INFORMATION IRRESPECTIVE OF AGREEMENT. COULD NOT SEE WHERE USSR ATTITUDE TOWARD ECONOMIC SIDE OF AGREEMENT WAS HELPING US FARMERS.

5. US TEAM FEELS RUNOV HELD THIS MEETING IN EFFORT TO PREVENT REPEAT OF NEGATIVE PRESS REPORTS WHICH FOLLOWED RECAL OF SPRING WHEAT TEAM. HE INDICATED HIS HOPE THAT FORECASTING TEAM WOULD NOT HAVE NEGATIVE PRESS CONSEQUENCE. THIS WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON RELATIONS. MEETING ENDED ON THIS CONCILIATORY NOTE.

6. DESPITE FRUSTRATIONS, DELEGATION BELIEVES IT GLEANED ENOUGH NEW INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY TRIP. DELEGATION HAS RESCHEDULED MOSCOW DEPARTURE TO SEPTEMBER 18 FOR LONDON, WITH PROBABLE RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 23.
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